

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 2 to 6, 8 and 9, as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 [[1]], wherein when said gap is measured by the first sensor probe, ~~a change rate of~~ the amplitude of the second current is set to 0.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 [[2]], wherein when said gap is measured by the first sensor probe, a change rate of the amplitude of the second current is set to 0.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 [[1]], wherein said phases of the first and second current are set to be different by 180°.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 [[1]], further comprising a mechanism which changes a relative position of each sensor probe and target and a controller which determines the phases and/or amplitudes of the first and second current based on each of the relative position.

6. (Currently Amended) A measurement [[The]] apparatus according to claim 1, which measures a distance between a sensor probe and a target to be measured by using an electrostatic capacitance sensor, comprising:

first and second sensor probes which are arranged at respective predetermined gaps to the target; and

first and second sensor amplifiers which are connected respectively to the first and second sensor probes,

wherein when a distance between the target and the first or second sensor probe is measured, said first amplifier supplies a first current with the first sensor probe and said second amplifier supplies a second current which is different phase and/or amplitude from the first current, and

wherein said sensor probes are so arranged as to simultaneously position centers of said plurality of sensor probes at a target boundary upon a [[the]] change of a [[the]] relative position of said sensor probes and the target.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9 [[7]], further comprising a mechanism which changes a relative position of each sensor probe and target and a controller which determines the phases and/or amplitudes of the first and second current based on each of the relative position.

9. (Currently amended) A measurement [[The]] apparatus according to claim 7, which measures a distance between a sensor probe and a target to be measured by using an electrostatic capacitance sensor, comprising:

first, second and third sensor probes which are arranged at respective predetermined gaps to the target; and

sensor amplifiers which supply currents to the sensor probes and output measurement results,

wherein the sensor amplifiers supply a first current to the first sensor probe, a second current to the second sensor probe and a third current to the third sensor probe, and the phases of the first, second and third currents are set to be different by 120°, and

wherein said sensor probes are so arranged as to simultaneously position centers of said plurality of sensor probes at a target boundary upon a [[the]] change of a [[the]] relative position of said sensor probes and the target.